

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A toner comprising a binder resin and at least a colorant, wherein the toner has a storage modulus (G' (L1)) in a linear region and a storage modulus (G' (NL)) in a nonlinear region at 180°C, in step strain measurement of from a linear region to a nonlinear region of viscoelastic characteristics, satisfying the relationships of

G' (L1)/ G' (NL) is from 5 to 20, and

G' (NL) is from 100 to 400 dyn/cm²; and

wherein the binder resin comprises a block polyester and an amorphous polyester.

2. (original): The toner according to claim 1, wherein the toner contains a release agent in an amount of 4 parts by weight or less per 100 parts by weight of the binder resin.

3. (currently amended): An image-forming apparatus comprising at least:
an image carrier on which an electrostatic latent image is formed;
a toner according to claim 1 or 2;
a developing unit which develops the electrostatic latent image on the image carrier to form a toner image by the a-toner;
a transferring unit which transfers the toner image on the image carrier to a recording medium; and

a fixing unit which fixes the toner image transferred to the recording medium by heating,

~~wherein the toner is the toner according to claims 1 or 2,~~

wherein the fixing unit has oil-less two rollers.

4. (currently amended): A toner comprising a binder resin and at least a colorant, wherein the toner has a storage modulus ($G' (L2)$) in a linear region at 180°C, in step strain measurement of from a nonlinear region to a linear region of viscoelastic characteristics, of from 400 to 2,000 dyn/cm²; and
wherein the binder resin comprises a block polyester and an amorphous polyester.

5. (original): The toner according to claim 4, wherein the toner has a ratio of the storage modulus ($G' (L2)$) to the storage modulus ($G' (NL)$) in a nonlinear region $G' (L2)/G' (NL)$ at 180°C, in step strain measurement of from a nonlinear region to a linear region of viscoelastic characteristics, of from 3 to 8.

6. (original): The toner according to claim 4, wherein the toner contains a release agent in an amount of 4 parts by weight or less per 100 parts by weight of the binder resin.

7. (currently amended): An image-forming apparatus comprising at least:
an image carrier on which an electrostatic latent image is formed;
a toner according to any one of claims 4 to 6;
a developing unit which develops the electrostatic latent image on the image carrier to form a toner image by the a-toner;

a transferring unit which transfers the toner image on the image carrier to a recording medium; and

a fixing unit which fixes the toner image transferred to the recording medium by heating,

~~wherein the toner is the toner according to any one of claims 4 to 6,~~

wherein the fixing unit has oil-less two rollers.